

opera might have gone on for twenty-four hours. Since the dress rehearsals twenty minutes have been saved. Based on Schiller's tragedy, many scenes of the play have been retained, although the locality has been changed. Posa meets his death as in the play. But Carlos is swept into the tomb by his ancestor Charles instead of being turned over to thequisition.

The strongest note in the dramatic version is the friendship between Carlos and Posa. In the opera the Infante's love for Elizabeth is emphasized. Politics is somewhat in the background and there is less shouting for freedom for the oppressed Flemings. But the operatic libretto is inspiringly full. The characters are no longer the grand figures of Schiller's tragedy, but the pompous puppets of opera, with at least one aria apiece.

Work is on French Model

The opera was not only written to a French libretto by Mery and Du Locle, although the Italian version is used at the Metropolitan, but according to the model which, during three-quarters of the nineteenth century, had been known distinctively as French grand opera, of which "La Juive" and Meyerbeer's operas are familiar examples. In this school, length was considered an element of greatness. Verdi also included the other essential, a demand for the spectacular, which he had hitherto neglected. Because of his concessions to French art and the homage paid to the traditions and conventions of French opera, France is fond of claiming "Don Carlos" as the turning point of his career. But it was not his first French opera. "Les Vêpres Siciliennes" had appeared twelve years earlier. In reality "Don Carlos" belongs to Verdi's middle period, ranging from "Luisa Miller" to "Un Ballo in Maschera" and including "Rigoletto."

The increased richness in orchestration which was to come in its full glory in "Aida," composed immediately afterward, is already apparent; also the influence of Gounod and Meyerbeer. The first act is commonplace, but the second rich in melody. Probably the theme most likely to stick in

"That Settles It"



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